

REMARKS

In response to the restriction requirement mailed August 31, 2004, Applicants hereby elect Group III, namely claims 19-24, for prosecution in this application. Claims 19-24 are directed to a magnetically translucent buckle assembly. As such, claims 1-18 and 25-27 have been withdrawn from this application. Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application or continuation application directed to the withdrawn claims.

Applicants hereby traverse the Examiner's election of species. Applicants assert that all of the claims are directed to a belt buckle and do not place "a serious burden on the Examiner" as required by the Manuel of Patent Examining Procedure § 803.01, for a restriction requirement to be necessitated.

Applicants have also added claims 28-39 for prosecution in this application. Claims 28-39 are directed to a magnetically translucent buckle assembly. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been fully met, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional objections which the Examiner might have.

If there are any additional charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

Dated: September 30, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

By _____

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